husband is present, a majority of wives work. Of households containing husband, wife and dependent children, 34 percent of the women work full time and another 22 percent part time. Of husband and wife families, 51 percent of the wives work either full or part time. In single-parent families, 68 percent of the women work, most of them full time. Only in the one person households, most of whom are retirees, do most of the women not work outside the home. We also examined the proportions who are the principal income earners in their households.*

Women are rarely defined as the principal income earners in husband-wife families, but are almost always the principal income earners in single-parent families headed by women and in households of unrelated people. By definition, women in one-person female households are always the principal income earners. In all, women are the principal income earners in fully 30 percent of Nebraska households.

INCOME

How do females fare as income earners? Are their incomes equal to those of males? There are a number of reasons we should be interested in income equality of the sexes. One reason is economic: we would like to maximize the use of human resources in order to have a more productive economy. Another reason is our sense of fair play which calls for people doing the same sorts of jobs and having the same abilities to be treated equally. A third is necessity. We have just seen that 30 percent

*A principal income earner (PIE) is the individual designated by the respondent as being the principal income earner in the household; the PIE need not be the largest income earner in the household but may be designated on the basis of tradition or prior experience.

of Nebraska's households do have women as the PIE earner. Fair treatment for women in the marketplace becomes a very crucial objective for the people in these households. Further, in some other households the income of working women may be crucial to the family's ability to obtain basic necessities. In still other households two incomes may provide for luxury items not possible when only one member of the family is working. Thus, income equality and equal opportunity employment are more than abstract principles for many Nebraskans; they are vital to the family's standard of living.

Since we do not have salary level by each individual in the household, we examine this question based on household income from those families where there is no spouse or the spouse is unemployed. In other words, we are comparing the incomes of those women in families where either there is no husband or the husband is unemployed to the incomes of those households where men are the PIE and where there is no wife or the wife is unemployed. This is the most direct comparison of incomes we could obtain with this data.

It is impossible to test precisely whether males and females in our sample are being paid equally for equal work. What we are able to tell, however, is whether males and females of equal educational qualifications have about the same income: presumably if females had the same job opportunities as males at each educational level, their incomes should be about the same. We can also examine incomes by occupational categories.

Table 5 shows the results of this analysis. We can see in part A of the table that, households headed by females, regardless of the educational level of the PIE, are disadvantaged in comparison with those

households headed by males. The discrepancies range from $5,000 among households headed by a person with less than a high school diploma to $7,000 and $8,000 among those with higher levels of education. Thus, it appears that women have fewer opportunities or are less able to turn their educational achievement into income-producing employment at the same rate as men. Part of this may be the occupations into which women have traditionally been steered: sex-role stereotyping is a longtime feature of the occupational world, although this is now changing to a certain extent. Part B of Table 5 shows that even if we group the principal income earners by occupational categories, women are still at a severe disadvantage in every occupational type: again by magnitudes of $4,000 to $7,000.

These are, as we noted, household incomes. One might reasonably say that perhaps the male-female differences are accounted for by the greater propensity of women than men to work part-time, and the greater number of women compared with men receiving income support rather than being employed. Thus, we examined these breakdowns by examining only households where the PIE was employed full time. The patterns displayed above still hold true. In every case household incomes in households headed by male workers are from $5,000 to $8,000 higher than comparable female worker headed households.

PERCEIVED QUALITY OF LIFE OF NEBRASKAN WOMEN

We now turn from objective conditions of employment, household status, and income to the subjective beliefs of individuals about their own lives.

In Table 6 are displayed the responses to a number of questions asked of our respondents concerning their happiness, finances, health, and other items.

Forty percent of the women claim to be "very happy" with their lives, about the same as among men. Slightly more were very satisfied with their community, almost twice as many that were satisfied with their educations. Even more--about two-thirds--were very happy with their marriages. The members of the sample were perhaps less satisfied with economic prospects; only one-third of female Nebraskans believed their financial situation was improving, about the same proportions as male Nebraskans.

Turning from economics to health, Nebraska women were slightly less likely than Nebraska men to believe themselves in excellent health. The women were somewhat less likely to report regular exercise, more likely to feel overweight, but less likely to consume alcohol and smoke. On the other hand, male and female Nebraskans were about equally likely to say that they had a physically limiting condition, that they had been ill within the past two weeks, that they had recently felt depressed, and that they had recently sought help for personal problems. No explanation is readily apparent as to why women are slightly less likely to report excellent health than men; perhaps it is because there is a lower proportion of men than women in the older age categories in which poor health becomes more common. The biggest differences in health characteristics are somewhat contradictory: men are quite a bit more likely to drink and smoke, both possible health hazards, while women are more likely to

feel overweight, another possible health hazard. Of course, we do not know if individuals really are overweight or how much overweight they are. Similarly, consumption of alcohol in moderation may not be a health hazard. Looking at another indication of quality of life, slightly less than 20 percent of both men and women had been victims of crimes in the past year. About the same proportions of men and women (1 percent) had been victims of personal crimes.

We examined these same questions looking separately at women who work full time, work part time, or keep house. In the latter category we separated those under and over 60, to be more comparable to the working categories, most of whom are under retirement age. Again keeping in mind the range of sampling error, there are few differences among the categories, except that those keeping house who are over 60 tend to be somewhat more satisfied with their communities, and substantially less likely to feel depressed, seek help, smoke or drink, and report their health as excellent. There are only one or two conditions where differences between working women and housewives under 60 emerge. Women who work full time are more likely than housewives to report alcohol consumption, but women who are part-time workers report less alcohol consumption than either group. Part time workers are also less likely to smoke than either housewives or full time workers. Housewives are slightly more likely to report they were ill within the past two weeks, but also somewhat more likely to report their health as excellent.

WOMEN AND VIEWS ABOUT WOMEN

In this final section we will report how Nebraska women feel about two questions concerning women's roles at work and at home. We asked them if they approve of married women working if jobs are scarce and then asked them if they agree that it is better if the man is the achiever outside the home and that women should take care of things at home. Overall, 54 percent approved of married women working and 68 percent thought women should take care of things at home (Table 7). Views on these two questions varied, as one might expect, by a number of factors. For example, older people were much more likely to have the traditional views of women's role (i.e. women should not work; should take care of things at home) than were young people. The differences between the over 60 and the under 35 age groups were about 35 percentage points on both questions, quite a substantial gap in views. The 35-59 year old group were in between, although much closer to the younger than the older group. Views also differed by education: those with least education were most likely to have traditional views; college-educated individuals were the most likely to approve of women working outside the home and to disagree that women's role was in taking care of things at home.

As one might expect, working women held less traditional views of women's role than those keeping house; part time workers were more like those keeping house than they were like full time workers, however. Among those keeping house there were substantial differences between the over and under 60's groups: the under 60's group held less traditional views than the older age group. Finally, we looked at these traditional sex

roles by the type of household in which the woman lived. Differences were not great among the categories of husband-wife, husband-wife-dependent children and single-parent families. Those living with relatives (probably mostly older people) and those who lived alone and were over 60 had the most traditional views. Those living with non-relatives appeared least traditional. Overall, most of the household-type category differences probably reflect age more than an independent effect of household type.

SUMMARY

This report has covered a number of aspects of women's role. Among our most important findings are the following:

1. Over 60 percent of Nebraska women live with husbands, but only about one-third of Nebraskan women live with both husband and dependent children;

2. About half of Nebraska's women have paid employment;

3. About one-third of Nebraska's women are the primary income earner in their households;

4. Female-headed households are severely disadvantaged in income compared with male-headed households of similar type; these disadvantages most likely stem from discrimination against women workers in employment and income and consequent deficits in social security after reaching retirement age;

5. Most Nebraskan women are reasonably satisfied with their lives,

their marriages, their communities and their health;

6. Women are divided in their ideas about what the role of women should be, with a majority both approving of married women working and also believing that it is best if the husband is the wage earner and the wife the primary caretaker of the home. However, some working women have quite traditional views and some housewives non-traditional opinions.

At the most general level, it is clear that Nebraska women are a diverse group. Public policies and discussions of public policies can no longer be premised on the view that most women are housewives or that women's incomes are merely supplementing that of someone else.

TABLE 1. HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION AND EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN RESPONDENTS.

	Percent in Each Type
Woman Living With:	
Husband and dependent children	37
Husband (no dependent children)	25
Alone	24
Dependent children	9
Relative	3
Non relatives	2
Marital History:	
Percent who have ever been married	89
Percent who are currently married	76
Percent ever married who have been married more than once	13
Percent ever married whose marriage has been broken by death	24
Percent ever married whose marriage has been broken by divorce	17
Percent ever married whose marriage has been broken by separation	2

TABLE 2. EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN NEBRASKA.

Last week, were you working full time, part time, going to school, keeping house, or what?

Working full-time	31%
Working part-time	16
With a job, but out of work because of temporary illness, vacation or strike	1
Unemployed	1
Retired	13
In school	2
Keeping house	36
Other	1

TYPE OF EMPLOYMENT OF THOSE EMPLOYED.

	Women	Men
Professional, managerial or technical	28%	34%
Clerical or sales	36	11
Craftsmen, foremen or operative	6	23
Farmer-rancher	1	15
Other	29	17

On the whole, how satisfied are you with the work you do--would you say you are very satisfied, moderately satisfied, a little dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

Very satisfied	54	49
Moderately satisfied	37	41
A little dissatisfied	7	7
Very dissatisfied	2	3

TABLE 3. EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT OF WOMEN IN NEBRASKA.

	Women	Men
Did not complete High School	23%	19%
High School diploma	60	57
Junior or Community College degree	5	5
Bachelor's degree	9	13
Post graduate degree	3	6

TABLE 4. EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN AND WAGE EARNING STATUS BY HOUSEHOLD TYPE.

	% Women Employed		% Women Who Are Principal Income Earners
	Full-time	Part-time	
Husband, wife, dependent children	34	22	2
Husband and wife	28	23	7
One person household	5	10	100
Single parent with children	55	13	87
Two or more relatives	29	4	43
Two or more non-relatives	48	17	78

TABLE 5. HOUSEHOLD INCOME WHERE WOMAN IS PRINCIPAL INCOME EARNER VS. WHERE MALE IS PRINCIPAL INCOME EARNER BY OCCUPATION AND EDUCATION.

	Females	Males
Less than High School diploma	$ 6,100	$11,200
High School diploma	10,000	16,900
Junior College	8,300	15,600
Bachelor's degree	11,400	19,300
More than Bachelor's degree	15,300	22,800
Professional, managerial	$11,500	$18,600
Clerical, sales	10,000	14,500
Craftsmen, foremen	8,200	14,000
Farmers, ranchers	--[a]	17,600
Other	6,400	13,200

[a] Not enough cases.

TABLE 6. QUALITY OF LIFE AND EMPLOYMENT.

	TOTAL POPULATION		FEMALES			
	Females	Males	Working Full-time	Working Part-time	Keeping House Under 60	Keeping House 60+
GENERAL SATISFACTION						
Percent very happy	40	35	37	40	43	46
Percent very satisfied with community	48	44	42	47	44	57
Percent very satisfied with education	18	19	23	22	15	14
Percent very happy (marriage)	66	65	59	66	70	66
Percent who believe things getting better	32	38	43	37	39	12
HEALTH RATINGS						
Percent rate health as excellent	40	50	46	46	52	19
Percent who cut down because they were ill	21	16	20	18	25	14
Percent who have limiting condition	13	10	7	7	11	19
Percent who exercise regularly	27	35	28	31	34	17
Percent who feel overweight	53	38	55	53	61	51
Percent depressed	35	36	37	35	38	28
Percent who sought help	15	12	21	16	16	4
Percent who consume alcohol	63	82	79	61	70	41
Percent who smoke	27	41	34	24	34	13
OTHER QUALITY OF LIFE						
Percent victims of property crimes	18	19	23	20	21	11
Percent victims of personal crimes	1	1	3	0	1	1

TABLE 7. WOMEN'S VIEWS ABOUT WOMEN'S ROLES.

	Percent Approve of Married Women Working If Jobs Are Scarce	Percent Who Agree That Women Should Take Care of Things At Home
TOTAL	53	68
Women living with:		
Husband and dependent children	61	63
Husband with no dependent children	54	49
Alone - under 60	65	40
60 +	31	87
Dependent children	53	53
Relatives	39	81
Non relatives	67	55
Employment:		
Working full-time	67	49
Working part-time	59	71
Keeping house - under 60	53	75
60 +	23	90
Principal Income Earner:		
Yes	45	68
No	58	68
Educational Achievement:		
Did not complete High School	39	83
High School diploma	55	69
Junior or Cummunity College	60	64
Bachelor's degree	70	45
Post graduate degree	77	31
Age:		
18-34	69	52
35-59	55	66
60 +	35	87

List of reports already released using data gathered in the 1980 Nebraska Annual Social Indicators Survey. These may be purchased at the indicated price from the Bureau of Sociological Research of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Report Number	Title
1.	Designs, Procedures, Instruments and Forms for the 1980 NASIS. Lynn K. White. Price: $7.50.